

1 **CLAIMS:**

2 What is claimed is:

3 1. A method comprising:

4 enabling surveillance of a computer-like device connected to a communications
5 network, said communications network including a Network Surveillance Server (NSS) ,
6 said method including the steps of:

7 upon joining said communications network,

8 said computer-like device logging-in to said NSS;

9 said NSS polling, said computer-like device while connected on said
10 communications network, said NSS issuing an alarm , from , to a central
11 surveillance unit if said computer-like device fails responding to polling;

12 prior to leaving said communications network,

13 said computer-like device logging-out from said NSS; and

14 allowing said computer-like device to be watched by said NSS while being connected to
15 said communications network.

16 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein there are a plurality of more than one said
17 NSS present in said communications network.

18 3. The method according to claim 2, said step of

1 said computer-like device logging-in includes the steps of:
2 upon joining said communications network,
3 discovering at least one said NSS within said communications network [305];
4 selecting one of said at least one NSS to perform the surveillance of said
5 computer-like device [310];
6 sending credentials to said selected NSS;
7 thereby, if accepted by said selected NSS [315],
8 completing log-in;
9 however, if not accepted [316],
10 aborting log in.
11 4. The method according to claim 1, said step of polling includes the step of:
12 said NSS checking if said computer-like device responds.
13 5. A method according to claim 1, said step of said computer-like device logging-out
14 includes the steps of:
15 upon willing to leave said communications network,
16 said computer-like device sending credentials to said selected NSS,
17 thereby, if log-out is accepted by said NSS stops polling, said computer-like device
18 thus, completing log-out;
19 however, if log-out is not accepted , said NSS keeps polling, said computer-like
20 device thus failing to complete log-out.

1 6. A method according to claim 4, wherein said polling step includes collecting
2 information about said computer-like device and a registered user of said computer-like
3 device.

4 7. A method according to claim 4, wherein said step of checking if said computer-like
5 device responds, includes comparing if said collected information matches records, in
6 said NSS, about said computer-like device and said registered user.

7 8. The method according to claim 1, wherein said collecting step and said comparing
8 step are performed on top of said polling step and said checking step .

9 9. A method according to claim 1, wherein said communications network is an IP
10 network and said polling step utilizes the IP 'PING' command.

11 10. A method according to claim 1, wherein said communications network is an IP
12 network and said polling step utilizes the IP Address Resolution Protocol (ARP).

13 11. A method according to claim 1, wherein said computer-like device is a mobile
14 device .

15 12. A method according to claim 1, wherein said computer-like device is voice enabled.

16 13. A method according to claim 1, wherein said collected information about said
17 registered user includes:

18 a typing speed over a keyboard;

19 a voice intonation.

1 14. A method according to claim 1, wherein said collected information about said
2 computer-like device includes:
3 a current geographic location; and
4 an identification of a portal through which said communications network is accessed.

5 15. A method according to 1, claim, wherein said credentials includes:
6 knowing a personal identification number (PIN);
7 knowing a password; and
8 possessing a token or smartcard.

9 16. A system, in particular a system for enabling the surveillance of computer-like
10 devices connected onto a network, comprising means adapted for carrying out the method
11 according to claim 1.

12 17. A computer-like readable medium comprising instructions for carrying out the
13 method according to claim 1.

14 18. An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable medium having computer
15 readable program code means embodied therein for causing enablement of surveillance of
16 a computer-like device connected to a communications network, the computer readable
17 program code means in said article of manufacture comprising computer readable
18 program code means for causing a computer to effect the steps of claim 1.

19 19. A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of
20 instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for enabling surveillance

1 of a computer-like device connected to a communications network, said method steps
2 comprising the steps of claim 1.

3 20. A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having
4 computer readable program code means embodied therein for causing a system for
5 causing enablement of surveillance of a computer-like device connected to a
6 communications network, the computer readable program code means in said computer
7 program product comprising computer readable program code means for causing a
8 computer to effect the functions of claim 16.